

Convicted sex offender gets time for child porn

BY JUDY HARRISON
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BANGOR — A Bangor man with two previous convictions for unlawful sexual contact with minors was sentenced in federal court Tuesday to almost five years in prison for possession of child pornography.

Jeffrey Alan Shields, 42, was sentenced to 57 months in prison and three years of supervised release. U.S. District Court Judge John Woodcock accepted the sentencing recommendation of Assistant U.S. Attorney Gail Malone.

Shields was on probation for a 1998 conviction in southern Maine when he waived indictment in July and pleaded guilty to one count of possession of child pornography that he had obtained over the Internet.

Malone said that the images Shields had on his computer were of minors "engaged in actual sex acts" rather than computer-generated images or drawings.

Joseph Baldacci, Shields' court-appointed Bangor attor-

ney, urged Woodcock to sentence his client to 51 months in prison.

Shields told the court that he had been sexually abused by relatives since the age of 7 and had been a prostitute in his late teens and early 20s. He asked that while incarcerated he receive treatment for addiction to alcohol, drugs and sex.

"The images you called up on your computer were photos of real children," said Woodcock in imposing sentence. "By engaging in this conduct, [you caused] pain and great harm to children you will never meet. ... The purpose of sentencing is not therapy. The purpose is punishment for actions that are not only wrong but unlawful."

Woodcock recommended that Shields be sentenced to a federal prison with a sex offender treatment program. The judge also imposed strict conditions on Shields' term of supervised release, including no contact with children and no Internet access without permission from his probation officer.